

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-7, 9-11 and 13-14 are currently pending. Claims 13 and 14 are hereby added. Claims 1, 5, 11, 13 and 14 are independent. Claims 1-11 are hereby amended. No new matter has been introduced. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification as originally filed.

Changes to the claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. CLAIM OBJECTIONS

The claims have been amended to overcome the claim objections. In particular, “the information encoding means” has been amended to “the at least one information encoding means” in claims 1-2, 4-6 and 11. Claim 8 has been canceled and claim 9 has been amended to depend from new claim 14 to obviate the objection.

III. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112

The claims have been amended to overcome the §112 rejections. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the §112 rejections.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1-7, 9-11 and 13-14 are in condition for allowance. In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference, or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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